DEMOCRATIC

GERMAN REPORT

VOL. III NO. 20 OCTOBER 1st 1954 Price: 15 Pf., 5 c., 3 d

SIX-POINT PROGRAMME FOR ALL-GERMAN TALKS

The East German Parliament has proposed a six-point programme for all-German talks in a letter addressed to the West German Parliament on September 19th.

The letter proposed that representatives of both German parliaments should meet as soon as possible to discuss the following points:

1. Measures towards security for Europe and Germany;
2. A peace treaty and sovereignty for the whole of Germany;
3. A new Big Four Conference on Germany to discuss a peaceful solution and the withdrawal of occupation troops, with representation of both parts of Germany;
4. No military pacts to be concluded by either part of Germany;
5. Joint steps for banning atomic weapons, and preventing their manufacture or stationing in Germany;
6. A joint programme to prevent German rearmament, and agreement on the strength and armament of the police forces in both parts of the country.

"The People's Chamber is ready to receive and discuss all other suitable proposals for negotiation" the letter stated.

(The full text of the letter is given on the next page)

Pension for Gestapo Chief

The first chief of the nazi Gestapo, Rudolf Diels, is drawing a pension of 658 marks monthly from the West German Government.

This was officially stated in the West German Parliament on September 17th by Minister of the Interior Gerhard Schroeder, himself a former member of Hitler's Storm Troops.

The pension was granted under the West German law by which former government officials, dismissed immediately after the war for their nazi activities, should either be reinstated or receive an adequate pension while awaiting reinstatement.

Minister of the Interior Schroeder told the West German parliament that steps would be taken to reduce Herr Diel's pension. This would be done not because of his role in the Gestapo, but because he recently wrote a pamphlet violently attacking the present West German government.

Rudolf Diels was head of the Gestapo from 1933 until April 1934, and was responsible for framing-up the Reichstag fire and for the establishment of the first concentration camps. In 1934 he handed the Gestapo over to Heinrich Himmler, and himself took the post of governor of Lower Saxony.

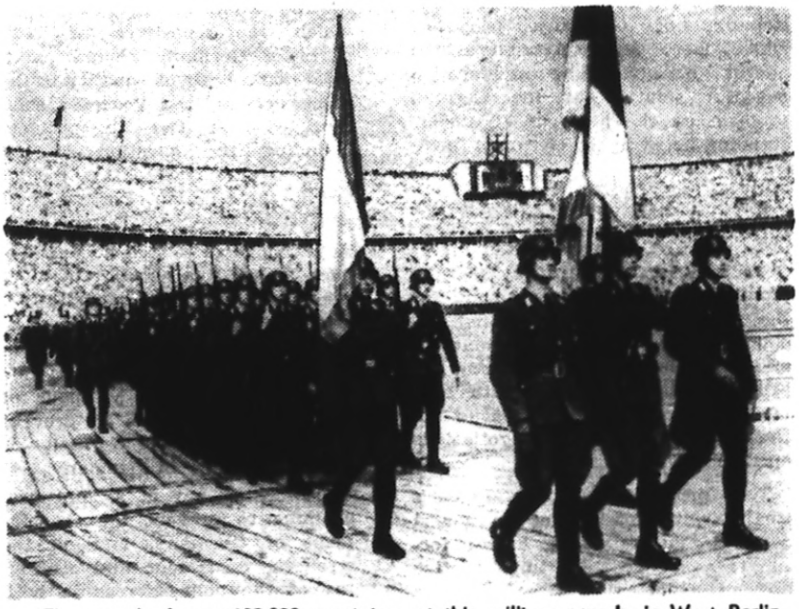
"No Wehrmacht" Say Young Unionists

West German young trade unionists rejected every form of rearmament at their conference held in Dusseldorf on September 26th.

The conference, attended by delegates representing 1,200,000 young members of the West German Trade Union Federation passed almost unanimously a resolution rejecting a new Wehrmacht, since this would only be a hindrance to German reunification.

A further resolution calling for the restoration of normal relations between the two halves of Germany was passed by a large majority.

West Berlin 1954



The crowd of over 100,000 spectators at this military parade in West Berlin in Sepember 1954 "applauded the precise rifle-drill of more than one thousand mobile police" stated the caption to this picture in the West Berlin newspaper "Kurier".

PROPOSALS FOR GERMAN UNITY

Eastern Letter to West German Parliament

The rejection of the European Defence Community Treaty by the majority of the French National Assembly has created a new situation for Germany. The policy of the EDC Treaty and the Bonn Treaty, aimed at the re-establishment of militarism in West Germany and at driving Germany along the path of a new war, was the main obstacle to the re-unification of our homeland. Following the breakdown of the EDC Treaty there are new prospects for a peaceful solution of the German problem.

The peaceable people of the whole of Germany expect that the responsible German quarters will exhaust all possibilities for the Germans themselves to reach an understanding, and that in joint discussions conditions will be created which will lead to a reduction in tension in Germany and in Europe. There is a readiness for a peaceful solution of the German problem in most other European states, particularly in France: the people of these states decisively reject, in the interests of peace, any restoration of German militarism and the creation of an aggressive military grouping of some of the European states.

The People's Chamber of the German Democratic Republic has repeatedly sent proposals to the Federal Parliament of the Federal Republic of Germany, proposals which were an expression of the honest endeavour to achieve a peaceful solution of the German problem on the basis of an understanding between the Germans themselves.

The contents of these proposals are proof of this — proposals for negotiations to ease and strengthen inner-German trade and traffic; for the creation of an all-German body for the promotion of international co-operation; on the strength, armament and stationing of the police; and our proposal made on August 4th 1954 (for a joint East-West appeal to the Big Powers for resumed negotiations on Germany, ed.)

The proposals of the People's Chamber, expressions of an honest desire for understanding, have unfortunately not received any positive answer from the West German Federal Parliament to date. This fact is also deeply regretted by the overwhelming majority of the German people. Mutual negotiations could long ago have led to a normalisation of the relations between East and West Germany, and thus contributed towards a solution of the vital questions confronting our people. The Presidium of the People's Chamber believes that in view of the present situation it is urgently necessary for representatives of both parts of Germany to reach an understanding.

The Presidium of the People's Chamber, conscious of its responsibility to the German people, and in the interests of peace, therefore proposes once again that the representatives of both parts of Germany should come together in order to work out a joint platform for the solution of the vital questions confronting our people.

We feel that at such a meeting the following questions could be discussed, and that a solution could be found if both sides showed good will:

1. Measures to support the endeavours of all European nations, including the German nation, to guarantee security and peace.
2. A joint announcement on the questions of a peace treaty with Germany and the restoration of sovereignty to the whole of Germany.
3. Joint support for the summoning of a Foreign Ministers' Conference of the Four Great Powers, in which representatives of both parts of Germany should participate on a basis of equality in the discussion on the peaceful solution of the German problem including the question of the withdrawal of occupation troops, and in the creation of a treaty of collective security in Europe.
4. A joint pledge to join no military pact, since this would endanger peace and hinder the reunification of Germany.
5. Joint steps to aid the efforts being made for a prohibition of atomic weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, and to prevent their manufacture in Germany or their stationing in Germany.
6. The working out of a joint programme to prevent the rearmament of Germany, and on the strength, armament and stationing of the police forces in both parts of Germany.

In order to normalise as soon as possible the relations between East and West Germany, and to bring the two parts of Germany nearer to each other in the immediate future, thus laying the groundwork for an all-embracing all-German understanding and the reunification of our homeland, measures could be agreed on the following subjects:

1. The encouragement and development of the foreign trade of the whole of Germany, particularly with its traditional trade partners in the east, thus overcoming unemployment in West Germany.
2. The restoration of a single currency.
3. The encouragement of German culture by means of cooperation in the framework of a suitable all-German body, with the aim of achieving the unhindered distribution of humanist literature, films, etc., in the whole of Germany, and preventing the distribution of militarist, nazi and hate-propaganda literature, films and so on.
4. The exchange of views and experiences in the social sphere, with the aim of achieving agreements binding for the whole of Germany.

In addition to these proposals, the Presidium of the People's Chamber of the German Democratic Republic is ready to receive and to discuss all other suitable proposals for negotiation.

The Presidium of the People's Chamber of the German Democratic Republic expects that the Federal Parliament of the German Federal Republic will respond to these proposals, and that it is possible to begin with honourable negotiations and serious attempts to reach understanding, as the overwhelming majority of our people demand impatiently with full justification.

The present time is very favourable to embark upon the solution of the German question by means of negotiations between the Germans themselves in East and West. The representatives of the two parliaments in Germany should show themselves worthy of the responsibility they bear to the German people.

In the name of the Presidium I await a speedy reply from you and from the Federal Parliament.

I am, etc.,

Johannes Dieckmann, Chairman of the People's Chamber of the German Democratic Republic.

ELECTIONS ON OCTOBER 17th

East Germany Goes To Polls

Some twelve million men and women in East Germany are expected to go to the polls on October 17th in the second general election to be held in the German Deomcratic Republic since the end of the war.

The voters will be asked to approve or disapprove a slate of candidates representing all five political parties, plus various candidates from trade unions, youth organisations and other bodies.

The selection of the actual candidates has been taking place for the past few weeks at meetings in factories, offices and in residential quarters, where potential candidates meet their electors to give a full account of themselves. They are then either confirmed or rejected by the electors.

The National Front, which has organised the joint list of candidates, explained in an electoral proclamation issued on September 17th that the decision to run a coalition slate of candidates had been taken by the various parties and organisations "in view of the fact that the deadly danger of war facing Germany can only be met by the cooperation of all patriotic Germans.

"In view of this" the proclamation continued, "the democratic parties and organisations united in the National Front have decided to submit a coalition list of candidates for the elections to the People's Chamber and the District Parliaments on October 17th."

Here are the main programmatic points from the electoral appeal of the National Front:

"Against remilitarisation: No Military Pacts or war treaties: for the peaceful reunification of Germany as a democratic state: for a peace treaty with Germany, sovereignty for the whole of Germany, and the withdrawal of occupation troops.

"Resumption of the interrupted international discussions on Germany with the participation of representatives of both parts of Germany.

"The German Democratic Republic is a workers' and peasants' state, an example of real democracy. The power is in the hands of the people, not in the hands of those interested in war, the trust-bosses and bankers, the fascists and the militarists.

"The big factories, banks and transport undertakings are the property of the people. The soil belongs to those who till it. 1,189,999 hectares of land which used to belong to junkers and big estate owners has been distributed to 559,089 peasants, agricultural workers and resettlers. More than 210,000 new farms have been created, and agriculture is blossoming.

"The educational monopoly has been swept away. Young workers and peasants and youth from the middle class and the intelligentsia can go freely to the high schools and universities.

"All working people are guaranteed the right to work, to recreation, to education, to free democratic activity and cooperation in the affairs of the state and the economy. Full equal rights for women have been provided.

"The church and all religious people have full freedom of belief.

"The German Democratic Republic gives for the whole of Germany an example of peaceful relations with all peaceable nations, particularly with the Soviet Union, China and the People's Democracies.

"The elections on October 17th must be a demonstration of our will and our way: The German Democratic Republic must become a centre of attraction for the whole of Germany. We must go forward with our democratic achievements, and strengthen the democratic rule of law."

"NO SIGN OF MILITARISM"

- Report Labour Delegates

Members of a British Labour delegation who toured East Germany from September 11th to September 19th were particulary impressed by "the complete absence of any evidence of military or aggressive outlook or mentality" they declared in a statement they issued at the close of their visit.

The statement said:

"We wish to express our appreciation of the invitation given us by Doctor Dieckmann (Chairman of the East German Parliament, ed.) to come and see for ourselves something of conditions in Eastern Germany.

"Members of the delegation have met the Prime Minister and many ministers in the government, including the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Minister of the Interior and the Minister of Trade. We have also discussed matters of mutual interest with the leaders of the East German Trade Union and Cooperative movements as well as with representatives of science and political parties.

"We were especially interested in our discussion with Herr Schmidt-Wittmack (former member of the West German Parliament who recently came to East Germany, ed.) on matters appertaining to the re-unification of Germany.

"We have seen sufficient to convince ourselves that the picture usually presented in Britain of conditions in Eastern Germany is a distorted one. Especially were we impressed with the complete absence of any evidence of military or aggressive outlook or mentality.

"We believe that the desire expressed by all the people with whom we spoke for the re-unification of Germany by negotiation, under conditions which include free elections, is genuine and capable of yielding results acceptable to countries in both the East and West."

The delegation included Mr Frank Beswick, Labour M. P. for Uxbridge; Mr Mark Hewitson, Labour M. P. for Hull Central; and Alderman W. H. Hopkins, Chairman of the Political Committee of the London Cooperative Society.

PROFILE

GENERAL REINHARD GEHLEN – WEST GERMAN SPY CHIEF

(General Reinhard Gehlen, former east front espionage expert of the nazi Wehrmacht, is today spy chief for West Germany. Like most secret service chiefs he shrouds himself in mystery. All information on Gehlen in this profile is taken from the West German news-magazine "Spiegel", published in Hamburg. All direct quotes are from the "Spiegel" issue dated September 22nd 1954.)

Nearly every week a very unremarkable-looking man of about 55, with red cheeks, a close cropped moustache and protruding ears drives from Munich to Bonn, the West German capital.

There is one remarkable thing about him, however. Although his car, a Mercedes, is always the same, it carries a wide selection of different number-plates.

This man is in reality General Reinhard Gehlen, chief of the biggest and most powerful espionage apparatus in West Germany, which is overrun with spy networks.

Direct Report

"If he has important espionage information about East Germany or about the Soviet Union to report then he is received by the Chancellor (Konrad Adenauer), otherwise he confers in the Chancellor's office with State Secretary Globke."

Who is Gehlen, and how did he achieve his present position?

He became an officer-cadet in the German army in 1920, and had a very normal career, rising slowly to the rank of Captain in 1934, one year after Hitler came to power. One year later he was picked to serve on the General Staff, traditionally the military elite of the German Army. Here he served with distinction under Field Marshal Fritz Erich von Manstein (later sentenced to 18 years imprisonment for war crimes by a British Military Court).

In the nazi attack on Poland, Gehlen served as divisional general staff officer. He was soon promoted to the operations department of the General Staff, where his immediate superior was Lieutenant General Adolf Heusinger, today chief military adviser to the West German government.

Here he became head of the East Group in the operation department, and played a large part in drawing up the operational plans for the nazi attack on the Soviet Union in 1941.

The reverses suffered by the Wehrmacht in the winter 1941—42 showed the General Staff that military intelligence on the movements and intention of the opponent was insufficient, and Gehlen, by this time a colonel, was put in charge of the section "Enemy Armies in the East" in the General Staff.

Here Gehlen obviously discovered his true profession, and went ahead by leaps and bounds, aided by the fact that other nazi espionage services were constantly warring with each other.

Accurate Spy

"By May 1944 Gehlen had become in effect ... counter-espionage chief of the eastern theatre of war."

"Guderian, the last General Staff chief of the army, mentioned Gehlen in his book 'Memoirs of a Soldier', in which he describes how he informed Hitler of the position at the front on December 24th 1944: 'My lecture described enemy strength and formations ... The work done by my section Enemy Armies in the East was a pattern of accuracy. I knew the chief of this section, General Gehlen, long enough to make a picture of him, his collaborators, his methods and his results.'"

"The section Enemy Armies in the East did not just collect material necessary for the operations of the German Army; Department II of this section made special studies of the strength and armament of the enemy armies, on the economic structure and the man-power of the Soviet Union, on the transport situation as it affected armaments and economy, and thousands of other specialised subjects, which were of permanent interest in the assessment of the opponent.

Card Indexes

"The card-indexes and files of the section Enemy Armies in the East were not just of importance to the strategy of the General Staff; they were a complete secret service file of the highest importance.

"Gehlen, who with the help of his material was in a position to judge the coming catastrophe and also the international complications following the defeat of Germany better than the German leadership and most members of the political leadership of the allies, was occupied very much with the thought of how this material could be saved."

Gehlen therefore decided to triplicate the important material in his card-indexes and archives on the Soviet Union, and to store them in various safe places, so that after the end of the war he would be able to fill the gaps in the material of the American secret service.

After his capture by the Americans, General Gehlen immediately declared himself "but to his disappointment the American interrogation officers showed not the slightest interest in his special information on the Soviet Union. It was months before Gehlen met, in Wiesbaden, an American general who saw some use in his information ...

"Gehlen, after long conversations with the American general, recognised that he was a man who had a realistic judgement of the Soviets ... and he told him his secrets, where his collaborators were, and the place where his archives were hidden.

Washington Trip

"A few weeks later, in summer 1945, Reinhard Gehlen, with a handful of his officers and his secret files, was flown to Washington, where he was thoroughly examined in the Pentagon before he was sent back to Germany.

"The American general to whom Gehlen had first declared himself ... established on his own initiative a German staff of specialists to work on material over the Soviet Union and its sphere of influence.

"This staff, headed by Gehlen, was established in a closed American quarter near Frankfurt. The section Enemy Armies in the East celebrated its reactivation behind American barbed wire and financed with the liberal dollar funds of the American counter espionage service.

"When Washington later sanctioned this establishment, Gehlen stated his conditions for future cooperation:

1. His staff should work under his exclusive leadership with a fixed annual budget as a purely German organisation.
2. No member of the service should be required to act against German interests.
3. Until the establishment of a German government he, Gehlen, would act as custodian of its interests in

the field of secret service, and would feel himself responsible to such a government after its formation.

"The Americans accepted the conditions, and the Gehlen Organisation was formed.

"The Americans needed in any case a German organisation to do secret service work in the Soviet Zone of Germany, and the Gehlen staff was superior to their own in the secret service methods used with regard to the Soviet Union and the satellites.

"The Gehlen officers, together with their families, moved later from Frankfurt to Pullach near Munich, where they lived behind American barbed wire.

"The camp is guarded by a German guard organisation, wearing a green-grey uniform similar to the service dress of the Bavarian police. The flag of the Feredal Republic flies beside the flag of the United States."

How does the Gehlen Organisation work in recruiting agents in East Germany? The West German newsmagazine gives precise details:

"A senior engineer living in Dresden, who has intimate knowledge of bridge-building programmes in Saxony is tipped as a prospect. Perhaps one day an old comrade from the Pioneer Battalion to which he belonged during the war will turn up; or during his holiday on the island of Ruegen he will get to know a nice married couple; or one of his colleagues will get a letter from a relation in West Germany asking for help for a friend visiting Dresden.

"These people will be 'investigators' of the Gehlen organisation, who have the job of finding out what the engineer thinks of Pankow Socialism (the East German regime, ed.), what his activities are, his personal character and the way he lives."

If the engineer is recruited into the organisation, then he has to send his spy reports to West Berlin or West Germany. This is done either through a "dead letter box", where he conceals his report for it to be picked up later by courier; or by travelling at intervals himself to West Berlin; or the reports are picked up direct by a courier; or in exceptional cases radio is used.

"Intelligence work in the Soviet Zone represents only a relatively small part of the work of the whole organisation, however. Much more time and trouble are devoted to the so-called 'research in depth' which means obtaining agents in the Soviet Union and the satellite countries.

"The statement that the Gehlen Organisation costs 26 million marks yearly (over two million pounds sterling) has never been denied, which leads specialists in this branch to believe that the actual budget is at least twice as high."

"U. S. Must Shut Down Spy Groups" – Soviet Request

Soviet High Commissioner G. M. Pushkin has officially requested the U. S. authorities in Germany to "dissolve the espionage and diversion agencies maintained in West Germany and West Berlin which direct their criminal activity against the German Democratic Republic and Soviet troops".

The request was made in a letter addressed on September 23rd to the U. S. High Commissioner, and copies of the letter were sent, for their information, to the British and French High Commissioners.

The Soviet letter stated in part:

"The Government of the German Democratic Republic has provided me with material showing that the State Security organs of the Republic have uncovered many cases of subversive work against the Republic carried out by organisations established in West Berlin and West Germany.

"The material shows that in a recent period more than 400 spies and diversionists belonging to these organisations have been arrested. In addition more than 100 agents have surrendered voluntarily, since they regretted their criminal activities.

"It was established that the agents arrested, or who voluntarily surrendered, were in the service of American espionage centres in West Berlin or West Germany, and that they were members of organisations which bore German names but which were in effect branches of American espionage and diversion centres. These included organisations led by the well-known nazis Gehlen and Blank, the so-called 'Fighting Group Against Inhumanity', the 'Investigating Committee of Free Jurists', the 'Association of Political Refugees from the East', the 'Eastern Buro of the Christian Democratic Union', and others.

"These agents were charged with the task of making attacks on citizens of the German Democratic Republic; collecting espionage information on the Republic and the Soviet Army; disorganising the work of the administration of the Republic; the commission of sabotage; and other crimes . . .

"In August 1954 the agents of the Gehlen Organisation, Karl Bandelow, Ewald Missera and Kaethe Dorn were arrested, after they had committed sabotage in the railway transport system of the Republic. They all confessed that they had prepared diversionary attacks on important railway targets such as bridges, depots, water-towers, etc. They were found to be in possesion of coded instructions, ciphers and other instruments for the commission of criminal acts . . .

"Arrested agents of the 'Fighting Group Against Inhumanity' have confessed that they had the task of disorganising the work of various sections of the state apparatus and factories by means of spreading forged instructions and directives, and by using threats and blackmail against members of the administration. This activity was pursued in accordance with a 'Plan for the disorganisation of administrative work' which had been worked out by the American espionage organisation.

"The investigating staff of the German Democratic Republic possesses many pieces of concrete evidence for the criminal activities of the agents. Material seized when agents were arrested included carbines, revolvers, explosives, time bombs, many dozens of portable radio transmitting and receiving sets of American origin, special cameras, fire-bombs, fuses, poisons, special inks, secret codes and other espionage and diversionist material.

"The material available to the investigating staff and the courts of

the German Democratic Republic shows that the espionage and diversion organisations in West Germany and West Berlin recruit their agents mainly from the ranks of those persons who were active in the Hitlerite espionage service, in the Gestapo, the SD and SS, or from amongst criminals . . .

"The facts prove that the organs of American military espionage have misused the situation and the rights of the occupation powers in West Germany and West Berlin in order to establish a network of agents who do espionage and subversive work directed against the German Democratic Republic and the Soviet Army.

"Evidence shows that the American authorities maintain 17 diversionist and espionage services in West Berlin alone. Among them are the espionage administration maintained under the name of "Office of Intelligence of HICOG" at 170 Clay Allee, the headquarters of the Berlin representative of the High Commission. This is also the address of the "Department for Political Diversion" led by the American spy Bailey; "Navy Intelligence" at 180 Clay Allee, headed by Captain Day; the administration of the Air Force espionage in Wiesbaden with a branch in West Berlin under the name of "Office of Special Investigation" in the Columbia Haus, Tempelhof, and led by Bauer, Allendorf and others; the department for American political espionage at 4 Kaiser Wilhelm Strasse; the administration of the American Counter Intelligence Corps, eighth district, situated at 172 Clay Allee; the office of American military espionage and counter-espionage "7880 sub-section MID" at 80 Clay Allee, led by Livingstone alias Smith, Parker, Peterson. In the last two months 155 agents of the American espionage organisations named above have either been arrested by the authorities of the German Democratic Republic, or they have come over voluntarily.

"From the material made available to me it is also clear that the Gehlen Organisation, the Blank Organisation and other West German espionage centres are financed by American espionage organisations, and receive their directives from such organisations.

"Arrested agents have stated that the central staff of the Gehlen Organisation, known as the 'Direktion General' is situated in the American military settlement at Pullach near Munich. More than 40 members of the American espionage service, including Colonel Hendricks, Lieutenant Colonel Duil, Major Schmitz and others belong to the 'Direction General' as experts and advisers.

"It is well-known that the Gehlen Organisation receives 20 million marks yearly from American sources. The so-called "Investigating Committee of Free Jurists" receives 65,000 marks monthly from the American spy Wain. Other West German and West Berlin espionage and diversionist organisations receive regular funds from American sources.

"A special role in the espionage and diversionist activities is played by the American radio station RIAS (Radio In American Sector) in West Berlin. The political department of RIAS attempts to build up its own netwerk of agents in the German Democratic Republic, and sends out so-called 'correspondents' to collect espionage material and organise sabotage. The so-called technical transmission from RIAS consist of a special code, containing instructions for the agents of the espionage organisation sent into the German Democratic Republic.

"As you well know, the Soviet authorities have repeatedly drawn the attention of the American occupation authorities in Germany to the criminal activities of the organisations named.

"With regard to the details given above, I insist that the American occupation authorities take effective measures to dissolve the espionage and diversion agencies maintained in West Germany and West Berlin which direct their criminal activity against the German Democratic Republic and Soviet troops.

"There can be no doubt that such action would contribute towards the creation of an atmosphere of secrity and trust in Germany, and would thus make easier the solution of the tasks connected with the reunification of Germany on a peaceful and democratic basis."

* * *

American High Commissioner James B. Conant refused to accept the Soviet note, claiming that it contained "false and slanderous statements" about the U. S. Government and members of the government service.

NEW YORK Herald Tribune

Saturday, September 18, 1954

U.S. Army Road Plan Balked by Germans

By the Associated Press

HEIDELBERG, Sept. 17. — The United States Army's once-secret project to install demolition chambers on all key roads and bridges in the American Zone of Germany as a precautionary measure in event of war was caught in new German snags today.

Top Army officials conferred here for the second straight day to air protests made by German state and city heads.

Lt. Gen. Anthony McAuliffe, 7th Army commander, has already agreed to refrain for the present from installing mine chambers in 12 bridges in the Stuttgart, Mannheim, Heilbronn and Heidelberg areas after a protest by Dr. Gerhard Muller, Minister President of the State of Baden-Wurtemberg.

Conferees 'Unanimous'

The Army announced that conferees at the Heidelberg meeting "were unanimous in the opinion that the program should be fulfilled as a precautionary measure before any serious emergency should arise."

German protests, the Army said, were based in some cases on a misconception that the installation of demolition chambers implied that the bridge would be blown, regardless of a war-time tactical situation.

"If there is a tactical requirement that a bridge be blown." said one Army expert, "it will be blown whether or not it contains a demolition chamber.

Neater, Faster Job

"The advantages of this technique," he declared, "are that preinstalled demolition chambers guarantee a neater and faster job and the destruction will be confined to the bridge site."

The project was started as early as 1950 throughout the Allied zones of Germany.

One of the first roads prepared for demolition was a narrow highway winding around the famed Lorelei Rock on the Rhine River.

A demolition there could tumble tons of rock into the river at one of its narrowest points, blocking river and road traffic.

Leipzig Fair Breaks All Records

The great trade fair in Leipzig from September 5th to 15th broke all records for numbers of exhibitors, visitors and trade done, it was announced after the fair closed.

"This year's fair showed that Leipzig is the greatest international fair held anywhere" the Ministry for Foreign Trade of the German Democratic Republic announced.

Here are some statistics of this year's fair, with the 1953 figures in brackets:

Foreign countries represented: 36 (25)

Foreign exhibits: 977 (578)

Area of West German exhibit: 3757 square yards (360 square yards)

Total visitors: 670,000, including 15,500 from West Germany and 7400 from 56 foreign countries.

Export trade done by German Democratic Republic: 1,892,000,000 rubles (909,000,000 rubles)

Import trade done by German Democratic Republic: 545,000,000 rubles (255,000,000 rubles)

Ban for Communists?

The West German Constitutional Court at Karlsruhe will begin a trial of the West German Communist Party on November 23rd in order to determine whether it is constitutional.

The case has been pending since 1952, when the West German Government requested the court to find the Communist Party unconstitutional, and to dissolve it and all its "affiliated organisations".

The West German Federal Administrative Court, also sitting at Karlsruhe, ruled on July 16th this year that the Free German Youth was "an organisation aimed against constitutional order and therefore illegal."

The judgement stated:

"The question as to whether the Free German Youth have used legal or illegal methods is immaterial. The decisive point is that its aims are the changing of the constitutional free-democratic basic order in the Federal Republic."

Wages

Average monthly wages in nationally-owned industry in East Germany rose from 261 marks in 1950 to 337 marks in 1953; prices were repeatedly cut during the same period.

...1933

VÖLKISCHER BEOBACHTER

Freitag, 22. Dezember 1933

Sonntag, 31. Dezember 1933

Eine Forderung nach einem 300 000-Mann-Heer mit normaler Bewaffnung ist jedenfalls also bescheiden anzusehen. Deutschland ...

Ich kann jedoch sofort sagen, daß Deutschland nur eine Defensivarmee in einer Höhe verlangt, daß eine Bedrohung anderer Staaten gar nicht in Frage kommen kann.

In 1933 the "Voelkischer Beobachter", official organ of the nazi party, stated on December 22nd:

"The claim for an army 300,000 strong, with normal armament, must be regarded as modest."

On December 31st 1933 the same paper reported Hitler as saying:

"I can, however, state that Germany only demands a defensive army of such a size that there can be no question of a threat to other states."

...1954

DER KURIER

Die Berliner Abendzeitung

Ergebnis der Besprechung Adenauer—Dulles

Bonn begnügt sich mit 500000 Mann

In 1954, the West Berlin newspaper "Der Kurier" appeared on September 17th with the headline:

"Result of the Adenauer-Dulles talks:
BONN WOULD BE SATISFIED WITH 500,000 MEN."

The report under this headline stated:

"As we just learn from Bonn, Federal Chancellor Dr. Adenauer, in the course of his talks with the American Secretary of State, declared his readiness to accept the following limitations on German rearmament:

1. Limitation of the German armed forces to 500,000 men, in accordance with the stipulations of the EDC treaty ..."

NO CONSCRIPTION IN E. GERMANY

The East German Ministry of the Interior officially denied on September 24th allegations that conscription would shortly be introduced in the German Democratic Republic.

The conscription story had been launched the previous day at a press conference in West Berlin by a Herr Werner Schroeder, who claimed to be an officer of the East German People's Police. The London "Times", reporting the press conference, stated: "Herr Schroeder was unsettled by a barrage of questions, and often unable to give exact replies".

The official East German statement said that Herr Schroeder was wanted by the police for bigamy and other offences. "The lie about conscription in the German Democratic Republic has been launched to distract attention from the real re-militarisation which is in progress in West Germany" the statement said.

SS Rally Stopped

Veterans of Hitler's black-uniformed SS have cancelled a rally they were due to hold in Iserlohn in the Ruhr on September 25th. The cancellation, announced by former SS General Harmel, followed massed protests from many trade unions and factory groups. Communists, Social Democrats and trade unionists were planning a counter-rally of protest.

BERLIN NOTEBOOK

By John Peet

I have often attended press showings of films in various countries: the films that have been shown have been good, bad, and indifferent, and the reaction of the journalists present has been according.

But until last week I had not experienced any press showing where the journalists were so moved by what they had seen that they had nothing to say when the film came to an end.

Underground Film

The film shown, which had such an effect even on the relatively case-hardened men and women of the press was a new East German production "Stronger than the Night", a story of the brave people who in Germany, as in the other countries of Europe, fought underground against the nazi terror.

It is sometimes forgotten that in Germany too the resistance movement against fascism was never brought completely to a halt, despite all the tricks and terrorism of the Gestapo, and this film is a worthy monument to those thousands of men and women who proved themselves in fact to be stronger than the night of fascist barbarity.

The film was written by Kurt Stern, veteran German antifascist who fought in Spain in the International Brigade, and his wife Jeanne, a Frenchwoman who was active in the resistance. It was directed by Slatan Dudoff, Bulgarian film director who made the famous progressive film "Kuhle Wampe" in pre-Hitler Germany.

"But Not All"

I should like to let Kurt and Jeanne Stern themselves describe what they tried to show in their film:

"It was the darkest period of German history, when megalomaniacs, criminals and hangmen dominated our country, attacked other countries, and set the world on fire. And the German people were dazzled, or they were silent.

"But not the entire nation. There were some — only thousands amongst the millions — who were not silent. In the midst of the frenzy and the blindness, in the midst of the terror and the cowardice, they bravely raised their voices to warn their people.

"From the first minute of the nazi epoch they fought on undaunted, day for day, year for year, in the underground, in concentration camp, for freedom and decency, and against war.

"Every day, with every word, they risked their heads. But they went on fighting until they won or until they were killed.

"What sort of people were they? How did they live, fight and suffer? In writing this film it was our aim to show this, and to set a memorial to the nameless heroes of the German working class.

"This is a film which attempts to show the fate of a few people, which shows how the Communist workers fought during the twelve years of fascist night for their people and for the future of Germany.

Human Beings

"Above all we wanted to show that they were neither sub-men nor super-men, that they were not blind fanatics or doctrinaires, but just simply men and women. They were human beings who loved life and love, happiness and the sun as we all do; that they were human beings with their personal problems and troubles."

And the writers, the director and the actors of this film have done their job supremely well.

The film is a tragedy — most of the main characters end, as their counterparts did in real life, on the nazi headman's block.

But it is an optimistic tragedy, for today the comrades of those who fell are building a new democratic Germany which will never again allow a Hitler to come to power.

I sincerely hope that it will be possible to show this film "Stronger than the Night" not only in East Germany and the People's Democracies, but also in Britain, France and other countries.

. . . And in the West

A new West German film called "Morgengrauen" (Break of Day), produced by Ariston Films, tells the story of a nazi Luftwaffe pilot, who wins Hitler's "Knight's Cross with Laurels" in the second world war. The film ends with a scene in 1954 in which the fascist pilot clambers back into the cockpit of a plane, while German troops of the "Frontier Protection Corps" play "Deutschland Deutschland ueber Alles".

The West German Government granted a financial guarantee for the making of the film, and gave permission for the band of the Frontier Troops to play in the last scene.

Chairman of the Ariston Film Company is Jochen Genzow, former Lieutenant Colonel of the Luftwaffe, and Adjutant on the Italian front to war criminal Field Marshal Albert Kesselring.

Super-Story

The story to end all stories about East Berlin was published in the Nottingham "Guardian Journal". John H. Izbicki, a student who has just graduated from Nottingham University, described a visit to the new blocks of apartments being built on the Stalin Allee in East Berlin, and reported:

"Should the visitor venture to walk up one of the few sidestreets and look at the back of the Stalin Allee he will find — nothing. Absolutely nothing. There are only outer walls housing large shops. It is just like a stage setting."

It's a funny thing, but only yesterday I was drinking tea in one of those "stage-setting" apartments on the fifth floor of one of those "outer walls", and it all looked solid enough to me. And it looks solid enough to all the 10,000 people who live in these apartments which, according to the Nottingham newspaper are nonexistent.

I have written to the Nottingham "Guardian Journal" offering to pay all Mr. Izbicki's expenses if he will come to Berlin again to show me these phantom houses; I shall report in a later issue on the reaction.

Forbidden?

"Even the terms Eastern Germany or the Soviet Zone are forbidden. The country is known officially as the German Democratic Republic, and to call it anything else is a punishable offence."

Horror story from British United Press, printed in the "Glasgow Evening Times", October 22nd 1954. The editor of GERMAN REPORT is obviously going to be punished severely: a quick check of the last issue shows that the term "East Germany" was used at least ten times, twice in headlines.

Edited and published fortnightly by John Peet, Democratic German Report, Friedrichstrasse 167/III Berlin W 8I. Telephone: 22 62 68. Printed in Germany by (36). Veröffentlicht unter Lizenz-Nr. 694 beim Presseamt des Ministerpräsidenten der Deutschen Demokratischen Republik